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Message Text

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14
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02

PRS-01 /120 W
---------- 036724
R 070940Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8498
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3672

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, NL
SUBJ: INCREASED DUTCH USE OF COAL

REF: THE HAGUE 991

1. FIRST INDICATIONS OF INCREASED COAL CONSUMPTION FOR POWER GENERATION (REFTEL) HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY THE MAJOR DUTCH COAL IMPORTER, SCHEEPVAART EN STEENKOOK MIJ. ACCORDING TO SSM, DUTCH POWER PLANTS ARE SHOWING A GROWING INTEREST IN COAL, AND AT LEAST TWO LARGE STATIONS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE SWITCHED BACK TO IT, WHILE SEVERAL OTHERS WITH CAPABILITY TO FIRE COAL AS WELL AS GAS AND/OR OIL HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP THIER COAL SUPPLIES. DESPITE THE FACT THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT UPSWING IN COAL CONSUMPTION CAN BE ACCOUNTED FOR IBY ITS RELATIVELY FAVORABLE PRICE VIS A VIS OIL AND GAS (APPROXI-MATELY FIVE US DOLLARS PER 100 K CAL GAINST 7.50 AND 6.50
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US DOLLARS FOR OIL AND GAS RESPECITIVELY), THE SEARCH

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BY POWER PLANTS FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES TO COM-
PENSATE FOR THE ANTICIPATED DECLINE IN NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES IN THE
FUTURE MAY BE PLAYING AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT ROLE.

2. ALTHOUGH POWER STATIONS CONSUMED ONLY SEVERAL THOU-
SANDS OF TONS IN 1975, THEY ARE EXPRECTED TO INCREASE
THIER CONSUMPTION SOON TO OVER THREE MILLION TONS A
YEAR. ACCORDING TO ONE CONSUMER, OVER 80 PERCENT OF
THE COAL USED TO GENERATE POWER IS OF US ORIGIN AND
THIS PERCENTAGE MAY CONTINUE IF AMERICAN PRICES AND
SUPPLIES REMAIN FAVORABLE.

3. TRADE SOURCES ALSO INFORM US THAT DUTCH IMPORTS OF
COKING COAL IN 1975 AMOUNTED TO OVER FOUR MILLION TONS,
OF WHICH MORE THAN 38 PERCENT WAS OF US ORIGIN, A SHARE
WHICH BUILDS ON A STEADY INCREASE SINCE 1973. FOR 1976
COKING COAL IMPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO GORW TO AN ESTIMATED
FIVE MILLION ONS. ALMOST ALL OF THE COAL IMPORTED IN
1975 WAS ABSORBED BY THE HOOGOVENS STEEL MILL AND PRI-
VATE COKING FACTORIES.

4. ACCORDING TO THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, COAL CONSTITUTED
4.6 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ENERGY USED BY THE NETHERLANDS
IN 1975, COMPARED TO 41.6 FOR OIL AND 51.4 FOR NATURAL
GAS. COAL IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A 10 PERCENT SHARE IN
1985, AGAINST 52 FOR OIL, 25 FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND
13 FOR NATURAL GAS.
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